

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for pricing transactions in real-time, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a real-time price quote for a transaction ~~from~~ of a first account, the request being received at a first instance in time during a billing cycle;

determining a first production service, the first production service being a component of the transaction;

determining a count of first production service instances representing the first production service in the ~~received~~ transaction;

determining a billable entity for the transaction, the billable entity comprising one or more related accounts, wherein the one or more related accounts includes the first account;

determining a total of the first production service instances associated with ~~purchased by~~ the one or more related accounts during the billing cycle up to the first instance in time, the total including the count of the first production service instances in the ~~received~~ transaction;

determining a price applicable to the total of the first production service instances based on a pricing method; and

apportioning the price to the ~~received~~ transaction based on the count of the first production service instances in the ~~received~~ transaction.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pricing method is “flat fee”.
3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pricing method is “minimum revenue”.
4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pricing method is “tiering”.
5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pricing method is “volume discounts”.
6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - determining a billable service related to a pricing of the first production service; and
 - determining a price table related to the transaction, the price table containing a price for the billable service.
7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising: calculating a variance to the price comprising:
 - determining an end-of-period total of the first production service instances ~~purchased by~~ associated with the one or more related accounts during the billing cycle;
 - based on the pricing method, determining an end-of-period price applicable

to the end-of-period total of the first production service instances ~~based on the pricing method~~; and

based on the end-of-period price, modifying the first price apportioned to the ~~received transaction based on the end-of-period price~~.

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

determining one or more related production services, each of the one or more related production services being related to the first production service;

determining a count of related production service instances representing the number of related production services ~~purchased~~ associated with the one or more related accounts during the billing cycle up to the first instance in time, the count of the related production service instances including the count of the first production service instances in the ~~received~~ transaction;

based on the pricing method, determining a related production service price applicable to the count of the related production service instances ~~based on the pricing method~~; and

based on the count of the first production service instances in the transaction, apportioning the related production service price to the ~~received transaction based on the count of the first production service instances in the received transaction~~.

9. (Currently amended) A method for real-time pricing comprising:

receiving a request for a real-time price quote for a transaction, the request

being received at a first instance in time during a billing cycle, wherein the transaction comprises a number of first production service instances, each first production service instance ~~representing~~ relating to a first production service;

based on a pricing relationship, determining a total count of production service instances consumed during the billing cycle up to the first instance in time ~~based on a pricing relationship~~;

determining a billable service appropriate for the first production service;

calculating a price for the first production service from a price table based on a first attribute for the billable service and the total count of production service instances consumed; and

apportioning the price to the ~~received~~ transaction based on the number of first production service instances in the transaction.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9 further comprising creating a record of the transaction.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 9 further comprising creating the first production service, the first production service being a component of the transaction.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the transaction is to be carried out for a customer, and wherein the method further comprises ~~comprising~~ creating the pricing relationship, the pricing relationship related to the first production service and to the customer.

13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 9 further comprising creating the billable service related to a pricing of the first production service.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9 further comprising creating the price table related to the transaction, the price table ~~contains~~ containing the first attribute for the billable service.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the pricing relationship ~~comprises~~ relates to a billable entity.

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the pricing relationship ~~comprises~~ relates to one or more related accounts.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the pricing relationship ~~comprises~~ relates to one or more related production services.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the total count of production service instances consumed comprises a count of the first production service instances consumed.

19. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the total count of production service instances consumed comprises a count of ~~one or more related~~ production service instances consumed in one or more related accounts.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the first attribute comprises a pricing method.

21. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the pricing method

is “flat fee”.

22. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the pricing method is “minimum revenue”.

23. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the pricing method is “tiering”.

24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the pricing method is “volume discounts”.

25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9 further comprising:

calculating a variance to the calculated price comprising:

based on the pricing relationship, determining an end-of-period count of production service instances consumed during the billing cycle ~~based on the pricing relationship~~;

calculating an end-of-period price for the first production service from the price table, based on the first attribute for the billable service and the end-of-period count of production service instances consumed; and

based on the end-of-period price, modifying the price apportioned to the ~~received transaction based on the end-of-period price~~.

26. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

receive a request for a real-time price quote for a transaction, the request being received at a first instance in time during a billing cycle, wherein the transaction comprises a number of first production service instances, each first production service instance a first production service;

based on a pricing relationship, determine a total count of production service instances consumed during the billing cycle up to the first instance in time ~~based on a pricing relationship~~;

determine a billable service appropriate for the first production service; calculate a price for the first production service from a price table based on a first attribute for the billable service and the total count of production service instances consumed; ~~and~~

apportion the price to the ~~received~~-transaction based on the number of first production service instances in the transaction; and

provide the price as data to be included in determining service charges to a customer associated with the transaction.

27. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the pricing relationship ~~comprises~~ relates to a billable entity.

28. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the pricing relationship ~~comprises~~ relates to one or more related accounts.

29. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26,

wherein the pricing relationship ~~comprises~~ relates to one or more related production services.

30. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the total count of production service instances consumed comprises a count of the first production service instances consumed.

31. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the total count of production service instances consumed comprises a count of ~~one or more related~~ production service instances consumed in one or more related accounts.

32. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the first attribute comprises a pricing method.

33. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to ~~create~~ record the transaction.

34. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to ~~create~~ record the first production service, the first production service being a component of the transaction.

35. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further

comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to ~~create~~ record the pricing relationship, the pricing relationship being related to the first production service.

36. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to ~~create~~ record the billable service related to a pricing of the first production service.

37. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to ~~create~~ record the price table related to the transaction, the price table containing ~~contains~~ the first attribute for the billable service.

38. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

based on the pricing relationship, determine an end-of-period count of production service instances consumed during the billing cycle ~~based on the pricing relationship~~;

calculate an end-of-period price for the first production service from the price table based on the first attribute for the billable service and the end-of-period count of production service instances consumed; and

based on the end-of-price, modify the price apportioned to the transaction ~~based on the end of period price~~.